MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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DIARY OF THE WAR

7th Mar.—It is reported that five Italian ships totalling 28,000 tons were captured when the British took Kismayu in Italian Somaliland. Four other ships scuttled themselves in the harbour. The British forces occupy Ferfer in Italian Somaliland and are advancing along the main road leading from Mogadishu to Gijija in Abyssinia. British patrols on the Gondar road are now east of Aminit. Thrusting through the heart of Abyssinia down the Addis Ababa road, a joint force of British and Sudanese troops and Ethiopian Patrols have pursued the Italians to Dambacha, only 170 miles from the Abyssinian capital. Royal Air Force bombers attacked the aerodromes and the harbour of Tripoli.

General Smuts confers with Mr. Eden, Sir John Dill and General Wavell.

It is reported that 16 enemy aircraft were shot down during a heavy raid on Malta on the 5th March. Enemy aircraft raided Malta without doing material damage to Royal Air Force property or personnel. Several enemy aircraft were badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire. One British plane returning from a reconnaissance raid was shot down.

Coastal Command aircraft sank an enemy supply ship off the Dutch coast and bombed the naval harbour at Denhelder and an enemy-occupied aerodrome at Ockenburg. No British aircraft is missing.

It is known that in addition to the oil factory destroyed at Svolvaer, a second important plant at Stansund on the island of Vestvaagoy was put out of action by the Allied Forces which raided the Lofotens. The German controlled Oslo Radio states that Herr Terboven, the Nazi Governor, visited the Lofoten Islands and decreed that the property of Norweigian families who left Norway and reached the British Isles should be burnt to the ground.

Bulgaria is cut off from all communications with the outside world. King Boris receives a German Military Delegation headed by Field Marshal List, Commander of German troops in Bulgaria.

President Rosevelt declares at a press conference that every day's delay of the Aid to Britain Bill would affect deliveries of war materials to the democracies a little later on.

A Heinkel III which attacked a convoy in the North Sea was shot down by the British warship "Guillemot."

The Admiralty announces that the *New Royal Ark* was sunk.

Single enemy aircraft have been active in various parts of England. Bombs dropped at one point in North-east Scotland with little effect.

It is reported that the Italian submarine *Amfitrite* which attempted to attack a British convoy in the Aegean was sunk by the British escort craft.

8th Mar.—Operations in all areas of Italian Somaliland continue to develop successfully.

New groups of German officials charged with supervising and carrying out the Armistice clauses have arrived at Casablanca and Rabat.

It is stated that half a million men have been mobilized in Yugoslavia.

It is stated that 480 warships will have been completed by Britain in twelve months.

It is reported that Mr. Matsuoka will visit Moscow and then Berlin and Rome for personal talks on co-operation between the Tripartite Powers.

The United States Senate has passed the Lease and Lend Bill by 60 votes to 31. An administration amendment to the Lease and Lend Bill making it definite that agricultural commodities may be included in defence articles which can be disposed of to other countries was approved by the Senate.

After eight weeks of comparative calm, the "blitz" returned to London. Bombs were dropped at a number of points in South and South-east England and in the Eastern counties. In very few instances were there any casualties and the damage generally was not heavy.

9th Mar.—The occupation of Gabre-Darre on the main Mogadishu-Harrar road is announced.

Activities of the Luftwaffe over Britain during daylight was on a small scale. Bombs dropped at a few points in the south-east caused little damage and no serious casualties. Some damage was done by single aircraft which dropped bombs in Eastern England. A small number of people were killed.

General Antonescu, Prime Minister of Rumania, has issued a manifesto to the Rumanian people in which he explains that it is more economic for Rumania to pay the German army of occupation in Rumania than to maintain an army of their own.

The Hungarian Princess, Stephanie von Hohenlohe, who is opposing the warrant for her deportation from the United States has been arrested. The deportation order was

issued on January 13, when she failed to comply with the order requiring her to leave the country by midnight on the 11th.

According to reports in Vichy, German pressure upon the Petain Government is being renewed. A number of high German Foreign Office officials, it is stated, will be coming over to Paris shortly.

Admiral Darlan has announced that French cargo vessels in future are to be escorted by the French Navy.

Regarding the latest position in the Balkans it seems certain that maximum pressure is being brought to bear on Greece by Germany. But a semi-official statement issued in Athens declares " Greece is indifferent to any threat and will defend her integrity and independence at the side of her powerful allies and friends to the bitter end."

Royal Air Force bombers escorted by fighters attacked Italian troop concentrations and motor transport in Tepelini area and the Glava Buzi road.

10th Mar.—The British Imperial forces in Abyssinia have occupied Daghabur, 600 miles north of Mogadishu and are now 300 miles inside Abyssinia.

Admiral Abrial, Governor-General of Algeria, arrived at Vichy and was received by Marshal Petain.

Rejecting Mr. Hoover's proposed soup-kitchen experiment in Belgium the British Embassy has released a statement saying " The British Government is satisfied that relief of countries in enemy occupation would, whatever the conditions might be, postpone the day of victory." " The British Government," the statement adds, " felt obliged to reaffirm their determination not to permit the blockade to be weakened or undermined by the admission of supplies from overseas into any territory under enemy control. It would be ' false humanitarianism '."

The United States steamer, Cold Harbor, carrying a cargo of food and other necessities for French children and invalids, arrives at Marseilles. Another steamer, Exmouth, with a similar cargo, is expected in three weeks.

General Smuts returns to Pretoria from Cairo after talks with Mr. Eden and General Sir John Dill.

An Italian cruiser of the Condottieri " A " class has been torpedoed and sunk by a British submarine.

Commenting on the passing of the Lease and Lend Bill, Col. Knox, the United States Navy Secretary, said: " We shall immediately give such aid to Britain as will make a Hitler victory impossible." It is reported that plans have been made to rush in substantial number of " Mosquito " boats to Britain directly the Lease and Lend Bill becomes law. The *Berliner Boersen Zeitung* says: " President Roosevelt has decided on continuous interference in Europe. Germany must now consider President Roosevelt as an enemy of a New Order in Europe."

It is reported that Germany is preparing to send an air force and equipment of the most modern kind to Albania to enable the Italians to drive the Greeks back into their own country.

Royal Air Force raid the industrial centre of Cologne, the docks at Cherbourge and Brest and aerodromes in Northern France. Two bombers and one fighter are missing.

Seven German aircraft were destroyed in attacks on Britain. Portsmouth area was the main objective of German raiders.

11th Mar.—British Imperial forces have captured the Afodu escarpment in Abyssinia and are advancing towards Asosa. The Italian column retreating towards Addis Ababa from Burye has been finally driven out of Dambacha. At Ozoza the Royal Air Force fighters machine-gunned and destroyed two enemy bombers on the ground. Royal Air Force raided Rhodes Island in the Dodecanese and Tripoli.

Deep gratitude to Britain, the United States and the Soviet for moral and material assistance to China in the war against Japan was expressed in a resolution passed by the National Peoples Political Council (China's Parliament).

Plenipotentiaries of France and Thailand formally accepted and initialled the terms of the Mediation Agreement presented by Japan. The Plenipotentiaries of the three countries have also signed notes to be exchanged between them.

General Weygand has arrived back in Algiers from Vichy.

A few bombs were dropped in the Suez Canal area by enemy aircraft. No damage or casualties resulted.

President Roosevelt has signed the Aid to Britain Bill. The House of Representatives passed the Bill by 317 votes to 71.

On the Central Albanian front the Italian counter-attacks on Greek positions were repulsed with considerable Italian losses. Royal Air Force fighters shot down five enemy fighters in the central sector.

Nazi raiders penetrated as far as the Midlands and the North-western counties and bombs were dropped ineffectively at various points in these areas. It is revealed that Buckingham Palace was again bombed in a recent raid.

Eighteen civilians were killed and 19 seriously injured in a raid on Malta. Considerable damage was done to property in one area.

Royal Air Force attack the German naval base at Kiel, oil storage plant at Rotterdam, a factory near Utrecht and aerodromes in North-west Germany.

A heavily laden Italian troop transport ship of the Sicilia class of 9,646 tons was tropedoed and sunk by a British submarine.

12th Mar.—The British Imperial forces in Abyssinia are smashing their way by road in lorries and trucks towards the important centre of Harrar. In Italian Somaliland Italian forces split into two parts and retreat northwards.

The British Minister in Sofia, Mr. George Rendel, narrowly escaped death when a bomb exploded in his hotel in Istanbul shortly after his arrival.

Japan's Foreign Minister, Mr. Matsuoka, leaves for Berlin and Rome for talks with Hitler and Mussolini.

Italian Blackshirt youths, whom Mussolini used to glorify, have been flung without proper training into the fighting in Central Albania and mercilessly mown down. Italian Blackshirt Battalions counter-attacking to regain vital lost heights found themselves between a murderous Greek fire and their own artillery barrage, and unable to retreat were wiped out.

Following quickly upon Admiral Darlan's threat to convoy French foodships comes the authentic information that unoccupied France is actually producing war materials for Germany.

It is reported that an agreement for the supply of raw materials from Germany for French industries has been concluded.

Enemy air activity over Britain. Merseyside was subjected to large-scale attack. Nine German bombers were destroyed.

Royal Air Force attack Hamburg, Bremen and Berlin. Five British aircraft are missing. A Beaufort torpedo bomber torpedoed a German destroyer in Skaggerak, between Norway and Denmark.

The Greek hospital ship, *Socrates*, was damaged by bombs from an Italian seaplane.

Enemy planes raided Malta. Some damage was caused and a few civilians were killed and wounded.

Royal Air Force bombers raided enemy aerodromes in the Island of Rhodes, Maritza, Calato and Kattania.

Mr. Eden meets Egyptian Ministers and Prince Mohammad Ali.

13th Mar.—Patriot forces in Abyssinia have occupied Yavello, 70 miles north of Mega. In Italian Somaliland British forces surprised the enemy at Daghabur and captured prisoners and lorries in which they were preparing to escape. In Eritrea the British troops are gradually closing in on the town of Keren.

It is reported that ten thousand Italians have been killed, wounded or captured during the four-day heavy fighting in Albania. Italians resume offensive in Central sector to regain the vital heights in the Tepelini area.

The State Department has "frozen" all Hungarian funds in the United States.

The Admiralty announces that the auxiliary vessel, *Manistee*, of 5,300 tons, has been sunk.

The House of Commons hold session in secret to discuss the shipping position.

The Greek destroyer *Psara*, escorting a convoy in the Aegean Sea, sank a submarine which attempted to attack the convoy.

It is revealed that Britain has invasion barges and they have been in action in the recent raid on the Lofoten Islands.

Merseyside was attacked for several hours by the Luftwaffe. A German bomber with a full bomb-load was shot down in South England.

The Home Guard is already a mature force —one million and a half strong, armed and trained.

The Admiralty announces the laying of a new mine-field in the Red Sea.

President Roosevelt has decided to permit export of unlimited quantities of aviation petrol to all parts of the British Empire.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 4th March 1941:—

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
February 26, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweep over channel and N. France, including raid on docks at Calais. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France. R.A.F. night bomber raids on Cologne (Rhine docks, bridges, factories, oil tanks); invasion bases, including Flushing and Boulogne.	6	2
February 27, Thursday.	(No reports.)	..	..
February 28, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on invasion base at Quiberon; Dutch coastal objectives. R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval bases at Wilhelmshaven and Emden; aerodromes in N. W. Germany and Holland; invasion base at Boulogne.	1	..
March 1, Saturday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweep over N. French coast. R.A.F. night bomber raids on Cologne (inland port, factories, oil tanks); docks, railways and oil installations in Ruhr and at Rotterdam and Boulogne.	3	4
March 2, Sunday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweep over German and Dutch coast, including raids on seaplane bases on islands of Syet and Borkum, aerodrome at Haamstede and convoy in N. Sea. R.A.F. night bomber raids on Brest (naval base, German cruiser); aerodromes in occupied territory; invasion bases at Ymuiden and Calais.	2	..
March 3, Monday.	R.A.F. night fighter attack on aerodromes in North France. R.A.F. night bomber raids on Cologne (inland port, factories, oil tanks); other Rhineland objectives; Brest (naval base, German cruiser); aerodromes in occupied territory, particularly at Haamstede; invasion bases, including Ostend, Boulogne, Calais.	2	2 shot down others destroyed on ground.
March 4, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raid on aerodrome near Brest ..	..	1

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 4th March 1941 :—

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
February 26	Nil.	1
February 27	Nil.	4
February 28	Nil.	..
March 1	Nil.	1
March 2	Nil.	1
March 3	1	3
March 4	Nil.	3

TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The outstanding event of the week is the signature by President Roosevelt of the Aid to Britain Bill. The Senate passed the measure by 60 votes to 31 on Saturday, March 8. It was then sent to the House of Representatives which adopted it by 317 votes to 71. President Roosevelt signed the Bill fifteen minutes after its arrival at White House from Capitol. No wonder that "The New York Times" says that March 11 ought to be remembered in American history as the day when the United States ended 'the great retreat'. The controversy which began 16 months ago and which has been debated throughout the United States as no other topic has been, has now concluded. In the words of President Roosevelt, "an adequate arsenal" for Democracy has been created in that country. "It will be the bulwark of our own defence" he said, "and it will be the source of tools of defence for all Democracies, who are fighting to preserve themselves against aggression."

The second big event is the attempt on the life of Mr. George Rendel, the British Minister in Sofia, who narrowly escaped death when a bomb exploded in the hotel in which he was staying in Istanbul. One of the two valises which was placed in the luggage of the British Legation staff exploded with the result that seven persons were killed and several injured. The other valise was found in another hotel and was rendered harmless. It is stated that the bombs were placed in the luggage in Bulgaria. This nefarious attempt has naturally created a deep stir throughout the world.

On Tuesday the representatives of France and Thailand signed the mediation agreement presented by Japan. Japan has "guaranteed" the settlement. It is obvious that Thailand has regained her lost territory. The agreement has been brought about by Japan partly in order to increase her influence both in Thailand and Indo-China. The repercussions of this adventure are bound to be far-reaching.

Mr. Matsuoka, Japanese Foreign Minister, left Tokyo on Wednesday last for Berlin and Rome for talks with Hitler and Mussolini. There is considerable expectation in the Totalitarian countries that, as a result of this visit, the Three-Power Pact will see further developments. Mr. Matsuoka is also expected to visit Moscow, perhaps in order to explore the possibilities of a pact with Russia. Mr. Matsuoka is reported to have stated that he intended to 'expound' to the Italian and German leaders 'his theory of world peace' which he had held for many years. So far as the outside public is concerned, the latest news from Japan indicates very clearly that it is Japan that is following the well-established principles of aggression followed by Hitler and Mussolini. The world must wait a little longer to know what new designs for supremacy Mr. Matsuoka intends to suggest to Hitler and Mussolini which they do not know already.

The week also saw the commencement of the spring offensive both by the Royal Air Force and the Luftwaffe. What is described as the heaviest raid was undertaken by the Royal Air Force over Berlin, Bremen and Hamburg and big fires were started. The German air force made a heavy attack on the Mersey side and the damage done was disproportionate to the large number of machines that were sent over in a clear moonlight. "Other devices," a mysterious expression which has not been defined, were responsible for dealing with night raiders twenty-seven of which have been brought down. Factors which promise effecting countering of this menace are improved shelters, food and medical reorganization, technical devices and flow of machines from America.

THE LEASE AND LEND BILL

The reactions to the Aid to Britain Act in the Democratic and the Totalitarian countries is worth mentioning. Mr. Churchill has paid a great tribute to America in the statement which he made in the House of Commons on Wednesday last. After referring to the generous and far-seeing statesmanship of President Roosevelt, he stated that the most powerful Democracy has in effect declared in solemn statute that "it will devote its overwhelming industrial and financial strength in ensuring the defeat of Nazism in order that nations, great and small, may live in security, tolerance and freedom." In offering the United states Great Britain's gratitude for her inspiring act of faith Mr. Churchill said that the Government and the people of the United States have written a new Magna Carta "which not only has regard to the rights and laws upon which a healthy and advancing civilization can alone be erected, but also proclaims by precept and example that it is the duty of free men and nations everywhere to share in the responsibility and burden of enforcing them."

What does Germany think about it? The German leaders had made an allowance for it in their plans, say the Nazi papers. The Act, Germans think, can only prolong the war and not shorten it. The German Radio has told America that Great Britain has hoodwinked President Roosevelt to help British Imperialism, while it has informed Europe that the United States is helping herself at the expense of England! Anti-Nazis in Germany welcome the Bill as hastening the end of the war, but it appears that there are two views which the Nazis hold. One section thinks that Germany will strike a smashing blow at Britain knocking her out before American aid could assume any important volume. Another view is that Germany was not yet ready to give Britain the *coup-de-grace* which would come later,

but this would not affect the final issue; Britain's industrial life would be bombed out of existence and her trade annihilated by the submarine blockade. Then America, finding that Britain would be financially ruined and realizing that there was no prospect of ever getting paid for her war aid, would herself propose peace and accept Nazi terms and wash her hands of Europe!

Whatever German reactions may be it is crystal clear that President Roosevelt has already taken steps to implement the measure. He has made a request for 700 million dollars appropriation for aid to Britain, all in cash, for aircraft and aeronautical materials, for vessels, boats and other water-craft and equipage, supplies and spares and for testing, inspecting and repairing defence articles for Democracies. An idea of the vast help which may be forthcoming may be had from the following list:—

(i) 200 amphibian tanks,
(ii) a fleet of mosquito boats,
(iii) food, particularly pork and cheese and possibly wheat,
(iv) more Destroyers, about 75 in number,
(v) aviation petrol and other oils,
(vi) patrol bombers for use against U-boats,
(vii) bombers to attack U-boat bases,
(viii) torpedoes for the British Navy,
(ix) five hundred cargo ships for the British merchant service,
(x) bomb-sights and gadgets ensuring accurate anti-aircraft fire by day and night,
(xi) guns and munitions of all kinds,
(xii) hundreds of Flying Fortresses and patrol bombers,
(xiii) thousands of machine tools, and
(xiv) hundreds of fast and medium bombers for lashing the invasion ports and breaking up barge concentrations.

These are the more important of the help that Britain will get from America.

It is pertinent, by the way, to mention the ways in which America also incidentaly gains by helping Britain.

(1) America has received £400 millions for war material supplied to Britain, much of it outmoded and obselete. This money is being utilized for complete modernization of American munition plants.

(2) The right to establish eight naval and air bases on British possessions in the Western Hemisphere is one the value of which cannot be underestimated.

(3) Much valuable naval and military information had been given to America—secrets, records, statistics, information and formulæ.

As one American correspondent has stated, "The United States, under the present co-operation with our Anglo-Saxon partner, is receiving the military benefits of the most technical of all wars, without actually fighting it or losing a single man." But America's timely help rendered when Great Britain needs it most in the defence of democratic principles is of immeasurable value, the full significance of which will be realized when the peace treaty is discussed after the war, America takes her proud place in fashioning the new order not only in Europe but over the whole world.

THE CAMPAIGN IN AFRICA

The drive into Abyssinia on the part of the British and Abyssinian Patriots continues unabated. The Imperial forces have captured Afodu escarpment in Abyssinia and have captured Asosa. The Patriot Forces have captured the town of Daghabur and are pursuing the retreating Italians from Burye to Debra Marcos. The drive towards Harar continues, the British forces having covered 120 miles in two days. The country is very hard to traverse and it may be weeks or even months before Emperor Haile Selassie can be said to have reconquered his country, but it is probable that before that time the Italians may be forced to surrender because of the Abyssinian revolt. Surrender is only a matter of time.

Many people are asking 'Where is the Army of the Nile'? Germans have been reporting clashes between the Nile and British mechanised troops on the borders of Cyrenacia and Tripolitania; but General Wavell has refused to be drawn out. Important consultations have taken place between Mr. Eden and General Smuts. Mystery surrounds the *Nile* Army and it will remain a puzzle for some time.

POSITION IN THE BALKANS

After the capitulation of Bulgaria, the Nazis are busy in Yugoslavia where the position is still very obscure. Mobilization has been reported and it is stated that leaders of important parties have warned Prince Paul, the senior Regent, against surrender to Germany. The people and the Army are pro-British, but Nazi pressure is growing. It is reported that a pact of non-aggression would be signed at the same time between Yugoslavia and Germany on the one hand and Yugoslavia and Russia on the other, but no pact has yet been signed and Yugoslavia has not yet succumbed to the viles of Hitler.

Russia has, of course, protested against Bulgaria's attitude because it cannot acquiesce in the absorption of Slav States in the Balkans by Germany. Still the question is whether Russia will change her policy if Yugoslavia is attempted to be ravished. Another important question is whether, in the event of hostilities between Turkey and Germany, Turkey will have nothing to fear from Russia. News from Turkey is reassuring on this point. She is reported to be firm and ready for any eventualities.

No information is available about the intentions of Germany so far as Greece is concerned, but Greece has made it absolutely clear by

(*Continued on Page* 7)

INDIA AND THE WAR

SOME STATISTICS

What India Pays

Defence expenditure for 1940–41 (revised estimate) Rs. 72·02 crores.

Defence budget for 1941–42: Rs. 84·13 crores.

Out of these totals, emergency strengthening of all arms is estimated at approximately Rs. 24 crores for 1940–41 and Rs. 35 crores for 1941–42.

Supplies and services rendered to His Majesty's Government cost India nothing. Britain pays in full. The British Government is also providing free of charge much of the equipment for the modernization of India's army and for the initial equipment of units now being raised in India.

What India Earns

The payment for war supplies sent overseas is swelling India's national income at a time when many other countries face ruin and starvation.

Orders valued at over Rs. 82 crores had by the middle of January been placed in India by the Supply Department on behalf of the British and Allied Governments.

Orders paced for overseas Government last year included 2¼ million yards of jute canvas, 3¼ million yards of a new jute and cotton fabric; 12 million yards of Khaki material and 14 million yards of canvas.

What India Gives and Lends

Will to victory is expressed in the cash offers from all classes and creeds to the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, for which no appeal has been issued. The grand total on January 31, 1941 was Rs. 3,02,47,283–5–6.

Notes on the War Effort

India manufactures 90 per cent of her own war needs.

Workmen employed in Indian ordnance and clothing factories have increased from 17,000 to 45,000 and those in the Government dockyard from 1,168 before the war to nearly 5,000.

Production of army boots, harness, saddlery and leather equipment is now thirty times the pre-war average.

The total strength of India's armed forces is now over five lakhs of men, and further expansion is proceeding.

Provision has been made for raising new armoured and mechanized cavalry regiments, new Indian field artillery regiments, regular infantry battalions, engineer units and mechanical transport sections.

"The scheme for manufacturing aeroplanes in India has reached a new stage and there is now little doubt that the year 1941 will witness the appearance of the first aeroplanes to be manufactured in India "—*Sir Jeremy Raisman in his Budget speech.*

TALKING POINTS—(*Continued from Page* 6)

solemn declarations made by her statesmen that she would resist to the last all attempts, by whomsoever made, to affect her integrity and independence. Greece at one time taught the world how to live, said a Greek newspaper, and it will teach the world how to die.

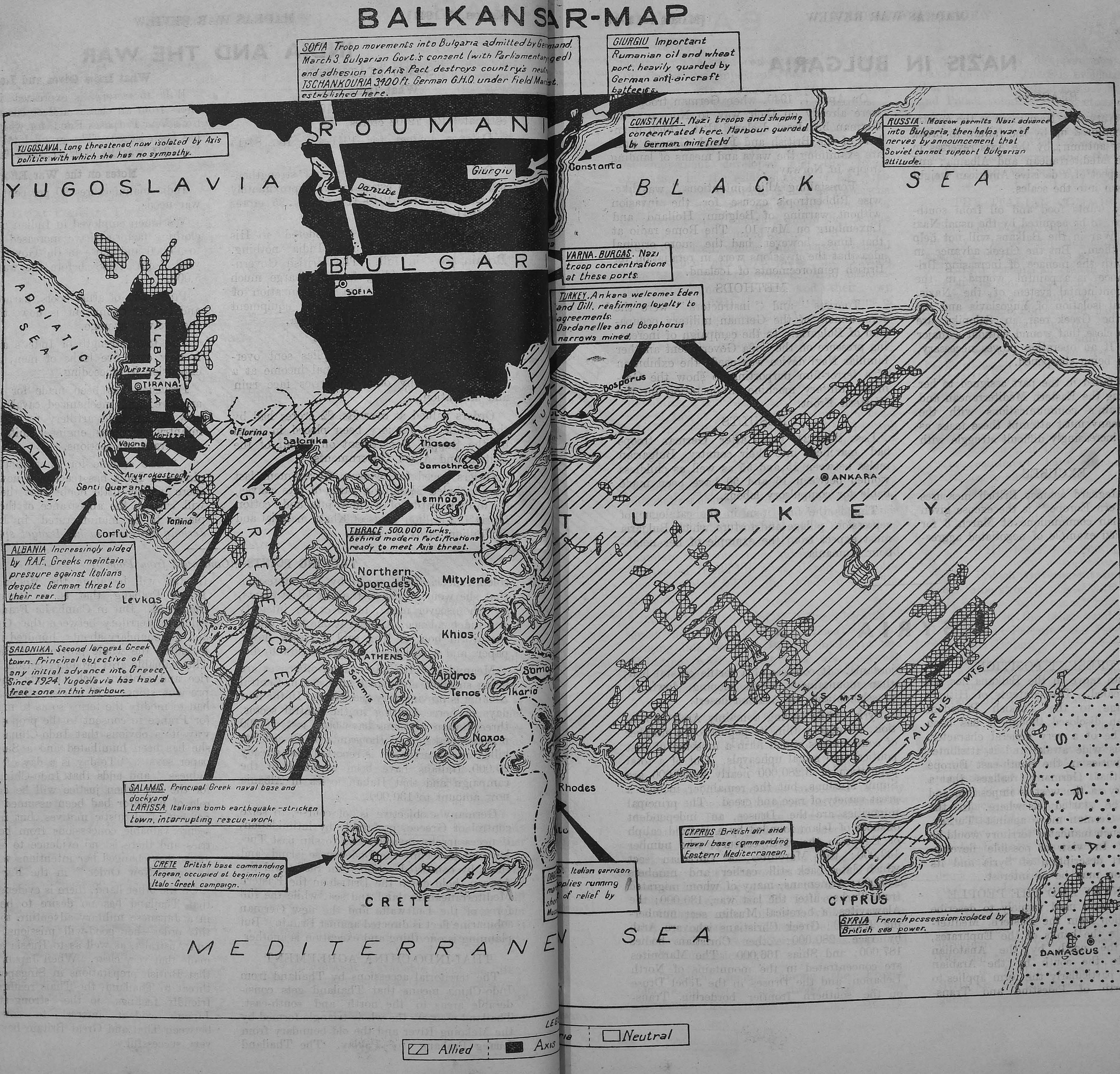
Meanwhile, Italian counter-offensives are being smashed and Greek offensive in Central Albania is proving very successful. In the four days of fierce fighting in the central sector, three Italian divisions have been lost, 10,000 prisoners taken and thousands of Blackshirts killed or captured. It is reported that already 20,000 Italians have been captured in the campaign and that Italian losses in Albania now amount to 130,000.

Germany's objective is, of course, to seize control of Greece, preferably by intimidation, if necessary by invasion and to slip past Turkey and to occupy the Dodecanese islands and then, by concerted action from Sicily and the Aegean, hold down the British in the Eastern Mediterranean by land and sea, while the full force of the Luftwaffe and the new German submarine fleet is directed against Britain. But planning is one thing and execution is another.

THAI-INDO-CHINA AGREEMENT

The territorial accessions by Thailand from Indo-China means that Thailand gets considerable areas to the north and south-east. Thailand recovers the whole triangle formed by the Mekoing River and the old boundary from Luang Prabang to Paklay. The Thailand frontier will be along the Mekong river at Luang Prabang, that is, so far as Laos is concerned. But in Cambodia France has lost valuable territory between the Great Lake and the boundary about a hundred miles wide, including the whole province of Battambang. This valuable area produces cotton, coffee and rice and contains rich forests, metals and precious stones. It is clear that Japan has had to modify the terms so as to make it easy for France to consent to the proposals. Anyway it is obvious that Indo-China feels that she has been humiliated and a Saigon newspaper says : "To-day is a day of anger and sadness" and adds that Indo-China will live for the day when justice will be done. The role of mediator had been assumed by Japan not out of altruistic motives, but in order to secure valuable concessions from both countries and there is no evidence to show that Japan has changed her intentions with regard to the "New Order" in the Far East.

On the other hand, there is evidence to show that Thailand has no desire to be involved in a Japanese military adventure to establish this order—her good-will missions to India and Australia, as well as to Russia and Japan made that very clear. When Japan suggested that British preparations in Singapore were a threat to Thailand, the Thais reaffirmed their friendly feelings in the strongest terms. Japan's evident interest to sow discord between Thai and Great Britain has not been very successful.



BALKAN S AR-MAP
SOFIA Troop movements into Bulgaria admitted by Ger mand. March 3. Bulgarian Govt.'s consent (with Parliamenta ged) and adhesion to Axis Pact destroys country's neutr
TSCHANKOURIA 3400 ft. German G.H.Q. under Field Mar st. established here.
GIURGIU Important Rumanian oil and wheat port, heavily guarded by German anti-aircraft batteeies.
CONSTANTA. Nazi troops and shipping concentrated here. Harbour guarded by German minefield
RUSSIA. Moscow permits Nazi advance into Bulgaria, then helps war of nerves by announcement that Soviet cannot support Bulgarian attitude.
YUGOSLAVIA. Long threatened now isolated by Axis politics with which she has no sympathy.
ROUMANI
YUGOSLAVIA
Giurgiu
Danube
Constanta
BLACK SEA
BULGARI
SOFIA
VARNA. BURGAS. Nazi troop concentrations at these ports.
TURKEY. Ankara welcomes Eden and Dill, reafirming loyalty to agreements. Dardanelles and Bosphorus narrows mined.
ADRIATIC SEA
ALBANIA
Durazzo
TIRANA
ITALY
Vajona
Koritza
Florina
Salonika
Thasos
Samothrace
Bosporus
ANKARA
Argyrokastron
Santi Quaranta
Yanina
Corfu
GREECE
Lemnos
TURKEY
THRACE. 500,000 Turks, behind modern fortifications ready to meet Axis threat.
ALBANIA Increasingly aided by R.A.F., Greeks maintain pressure against Italians despite German threat to their rear.
Levkas
Northern Sporades
Mitylene
Patras
Khios
SALONIKA. Second largest Greek town. Principal objective of any initial advance into Greece. Since 1924, Yugoslavia has had a free zone in this harbour.
ATHENS
Salamis
Andros
Tenos
Samos
Ikaria
Naxos
TAURUS MTS
TAURUS MTS
SYRIA
SALAMIS. Principal Greek naval base and dockyard
LARISSA. Italians bomb earthquake-stricken town, interrupting rescue-work
Rhodes
CRETE British base commanding Aegean, occupied at beginning of Italo-Greek campaign.
Italian garrison pplies running of relief by
CYPRUS British air and naval base commanding Eastern Mediterranean.
CRETE
CYPRUS
SYRIA French possession isolated by British sea power.
DAMASCUS
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Allied
Axis
Neutral

NAZIS IN BULGARIA

REASONS

Behind every new Nazi move is the spectre of defeat conjured up by the failure to break Britain last autumn; by the Axis reverses in Africa, the Mediterranean and Albania; and by the prospect of a decisive American weight to be thrown into the scales.

Germany wants food and oil from south-east Europe, to be acquired by the usual Nazi methods. War in the Balkans will not help her to get them. But the Greek advance in Albania, with the menace of increasing British assistance, is a painful wound in the cherished continental system of the Nazis. The political isolation of Yugoslavia and the threat to the Greek rear in Salonika are attempts to close that wound without a major operation. If an operation proves necessary, the knife is being sharpened.

Italy has failed in the part assigned to her of dominating the Eastern Mediterranean and cutting Britain's communications with the East. Germany must attempt these tasks as part of her increasingly difficult struggle with Britain.

EXCUSES

"As a safeguard against British measures in south-eastern Europe" is the excuse given in the German communiqué of March 3 for the latest Nazi example of negotiated aggression.

On April 7, 1940, when German troopships were already on their way to Norway, the German broadcast declared that "high members of the British and French General Staff are examining the ways and means of landing troops in Norway".

"Forestalling Allied intentions" was likewise Ribbentrop's excuse for the invasion without warning of Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg on May 10. The Rome radio at that time, however, had the more original idea that the invasions were in retaliation for British reinforcements of Iceland.

METHODS

"Tourists" and "instructors" were the fore-runners of the German military occupation of Bulgaria. In the campaign of increasing pressure on the Sofia Government another familiar Nazi device was used—the exhibition of a terror-film purporting to show the Germany military machine in operation on the Western Front.

RESULTS

Less than 24 hours after German troops had marched into their country Bulgarian males between 15 and 55 as well as childless women between 16 and 50 have been made liable for compulsory labour.

This is the first item in the catalogue of repression, pillage and torture which Bulgaria must expect from the example of her neighbour Rumania.

SYRIA

ITS PRESENT POSITION

The German move in the Balkans has not yet been revealed. The contents of Hitler's special message to the Turkish President have not been disclosed though it has been described to be of a very general character. But Turkey is wide awake and it attributes the Nazi activities in the South-east Europe to the fact that Germany realizes that a decisive victory in the west is impossible and feelers must be started elsewhere. In the event of any German move against Turkey, Syria, the French mandated territory would be in the news. In view of possible developments a short description of Syria and its present position may be of interest.

THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE

Syria is the term used vaguely to describe the whole region from the Eastern Mediterranean coast to the banks of the Euphrates, bounded to the north by the Anatolian plateau and to the south by the Arabian desert. More particularly the term applies to the region north of Palestine and Transjordania. It consists of a fertile coastal belt, then mountainous areas, sloping down to grasslands and the Arabian desert.

Syria, while having a mainly Arab population, includes within its population a number of communities which form a museum of past political and social upheavals. Out of a total population of 3,280,000 nearly 2,000,000 are Sunni Muslims, but the remainder include a great variety of race and creed. The principal minorities are the Druses, an independent offshoot of Islam founded by a Fatmid caliph of Egypt in the 11th century, who number 132,000; the Maronites, a Christian sect which dates back still earlier and numbers 240,000; Armenians, many of whom migrated from Turkey after the last war, 130,000; the Alawayites, a heretical Muslim sect numbering 274,000; Greek Christians who are Arab by race, 280,000; other Christian bodies 187,000; and Shias 166,000. The Maronites are concentrated in the mountains of North Lebanon, and the Druses in the Jebel Druse on the southern frontier bordering Trans-

jordania. The local centres give these communities special importance but all the others have their own particular historic trends, immediate ambitions and external patrons.

THE FRENCH IN SYRIA

Before the Great War an Arab nationalist movement developed and this found expression in the establishment of an Arab Kingdom under the Emir Faisal at Damascus in 1920. Under the peace settlement Syria became a French mandate under the League of Nations. The mandate was "A" class, like that of Iraq, which contemplated eventual independence, and ever since the French have been trying to reconcile Arab nationalism with minority claims and their own interests. In 1921 they ceded the district of Cilicia, lying between the Asia Minor coast and the Taurus mountains to Turkey, and just before the present war they handed over the valuable port of Alexandretta and the old city of Antioch in north Syria as well. The remainder of Syria was organized as two Republics. The Lebanese Republic, with the port of Beirut as its capital occupies the coast from the Palestine frontier to Tripoli, and the Syrian Republic, with Demascus for its capital, the remainder. In this state the Jebel Druso and certain other areas enjoy a certain degree of autonomy. The Arab nationalists desired a United States and looked at the progress of Iraq towards independence and membership of the League of Nations (achieved 1932) with envy; the history of the mandate was sometimes stormy, but in 1936 treaties of friendship were signed with the two Republics which did much to ease the tension.

With the outbreak of War Syria became of great importance, for it provided the connecting link between Britain in Egypt and Palestine with Turkey and also between Turkey and Iraq. Further a pipe line from the Mosul oil-fields ran through Syria to Tripoli. Syria became the headquarters of the strategic army of the East under General Weygand, who had under his immediate command there 100,000—150,000 troops.

THE ARMISTICE AND AFTER

General Weygand was succeeded in May 1940 by General Mittelhauser as Commander-in-Chief. He in turn was replaced by General Fourgeres, who was more amenable to the Vichy Government. The High Commissioner, M. Puaux, after a period of doubt, decided to obey the orders of Marshal Petain but in November he was replaced by the notorious ex-Chief of Police in Paris, M. Chiappe. After his death while flying over the Tyrrhenian sea General Dentz, who surrendered Paris to the Germans, was appointed High Commissioner.

Pro-Allied feeling among the French officers in Syria was strong, but it was weakened by arrests made by General Fourgeres and by disappointment over the Dakar incident. There is evidence, however, that it has since revived again. Some officers and Polish volunteers have crossed the frontier to join the Free French Forces in Egypt under General Catroux, and the remainder encouraged by the Vichy Government's recent show of independence and the ejection of M. Laval, are waiting on events.

THE ITALIAN COMMISSION

Since the French collapse Syria has been the prey of many conflicting currents. Laval is known to regard it as a liability and for this reason perhaps an Italian armistice commission was sent to Syria in September which repeatedly tried to secure the demobilisation of the French Forces, the handing over of 500 French aircraft and the establishment of submarine bases. The Commission met with a cool reception from the first; on September 30 it was reported that five Italian Generals had been recalled in disgrace, and in November it was said that half of the new Commission had returned home. Since the Libyan campaign opened in December nothing more has been heard of them. It seems certain that the French supported by Syrian sentiment, have offered a stubborn resistance to their demands. Meanwhile the army has been much reduced by the return of reservists to France and is probably not more than half its pre-armistice strength.

THE FRENCH POSITION

The French Government in Syria would seem to be strongly placed with regard to the Axis powers, who cannot now reach them in force. On the other hand, they depend largely upon Palestine and Egypt and therefore upon Britain for their economic life and even existence. The British have cut off the oil supply from Mosul and control more than half (or the routes thereto) of the principal markets for Syrian goods.

SYRIAN OPINION

The Syrians themselves are a prey to conflicting feelings. As Arabs they desire independence, but realise that they are not strong enough to stand alone. The Sunni majority is suspicious of the Turks because of their acquisition of Alexandretta, with an Arab minority in 1939. The Arab world itself is divided between Ibn Saud of Arabia and the Hashimite dynasty of Iraq and Transjordania. Ibn Saud and the Amir Abdullah are good friends of Britain; but the Palestine Arab Jew problem is an obstacle to complete understanding. In Iraq is the Mufti of Jerusalem whose influence pulls in the opposite direction. The various minorities want security and are not sure where they can best secure it. So the Syrians like the French in Syria are for the present playing a waiting game.

PROGRESS OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW TYPES

Sir Archbald Sinclair, Air Minister, in introducing the Air Force estimates in the House of Commons this week outlined the revolutionary progress being made in the R.A.F. with new, faster and more powerful fighters and bombers and the transformation of existing world-known models into virtually new types.

Mr. Leonard Engel, in the American Technical Journal " Flying and Popular Aviation ", has given some further account of the new types of British aircraft.

They are the Hawker Tornado, a single-seat fighter powered by a 2,000 h.p. Rolls-Royce Vulture engine, and capable of a speed of about 425 m.p.h; the Westland Whirlwind, twin-engined fighter, driven by Rolls-Royce Merlin engines, and capable of just over 400 m.p.h.; the Avro Manchester, a twin-engined bomber, driven by Vulture engines, speed about 325 m.p.h.; and the Short Stirling, a four-engined bomber. He adds that the Vickers Wellington, the Handley Page Hampden, and the Armstrong Whitworth Whitley have been " beefed up " and re-engined, the Wellington and Whitley with 2,000 h.p. motors instead of 1,000 h.p.

Mr. Engel also says it is reported that Vickers-Supermarine have developed a small single-seat fighter powered by the Griffin engine, which is descended from the line of Schneider Cup racing engines.

It is understood that enough Tornados have been completed to outfit about twenty fighter squadrons—nearly 400 planes in all. The Tornado is the farthest along of the new British fighters. Not many Whirlwinds have yet come off the production line, nor any Manchester squadrons been formed at the time of writing. The new-engined Wellingtons, Whitleys, and Hampdens should be coming along smartly, as the first production modes were tested about last November . . . . We do not believe that the Stirling is yet beyond the prototype stage.

The Tornado's armament is the only one known in detail, and it is impressive—eight machine-guns and three 20mm. cannon. The Whirlwind is believed to include in its armament a power-operated turret. Its primary mission will be combating Germany's twin-engined Messerschmitt 110. The changes have increased the top speed of the Wellington from 265 m.p.h. to more than 325; the Whitley's speed is about 300 m.p.h. in the re-engined version. Re-engined speed of the Hampden is 340 m.p.h. if with 2,000 h.p. engines, 310 with 1,600 power plants.

SPITFIRE OF THE SEA

The following accounts of the types of aircraft now in Great Britain will be read with interest. They have been taken from various sources :—

The Fairey Fulmer, the latest acquisition of the Fleet Air Arm, had no sooner undergone its " baptism of fire " than it was very aptly christened the " Spitfire of the Sea."

It is the fastest and most formidable aircraft that the Fleet Air Arm has ever possessed and has already scored a number of notable successes in action against the enemy.

The official description of the Fulmar is a two-seat fleet-fighter monoplane, and with its forward armament of eight machine guns in the wings is the most heavily armed aircraft of its kind in the world.

It was developed from the Fairey P.4/34, which was flying in the early part of 1937 and attracted considerable attention at the Brussels Aero Show in July 1939. The P.4/34 outclassed anything of its type in the world with a top speed of 284 miles per hour at 17,200 feet, with a full bomb load of 1,000 lb. Its range was in the neighbourhood of 1,000 miles at 230 m.p.h. The development of the Fulmar has brought about much improvement in design, with the resulting all-round increase in performance.

The Fulmar is a cantilever monoplane of all-metal construction with stressed-metal covering. It was modified from the P.4/34 to make it suitable for naval work. The principal changes are the fitting of eight guns in the wings, providing catapult points, a deck arresting hook and a room for a dinghy to be stowed aft of the cockpit. The radiator tunnel has been extended forward, although the radiator itself is in much the same position. To improve production, the flush rivets were replaced by round head rivets in those parts where they do not interfere seriously with performance.

The pilot flies the machine and fires the guns. The second man is a radio operator-observer.

It is powered by a 1,145 h.p. Rolls Royce Merlin X.12 cylinder Vee liquid-cooled engine with two-speed supercharger and has a three-blade Rotol constant-speed airscrew. The enclosed cockpit has a sliding hood over the pilot, and a tip-up windscreen over the observer. The under-carriage retracts inwards.

THE HAWKER HURRICANE

With its clean, graceful lines, characteristic wing shape and distinctive engine note, the Hawker Hurricane is an aeroplane which is recognized by thousands of British people as it flies day after day over England to grapple with the marauding Luftwaffe. To many the sight of the Hurricanes is a welcome one, and the roar of their engines a most heartening sound, for with the Spitfires, through long weeks of almost ceaseless warfare they have defended cities, towns and hamlets against the brutal, ruthless onslaughts of the enemy.

Few aeroplanes have earned fame so quickly, nor deserved it so well. In France Hurricane pilots showed their mettle. In Norway Hurricanes fought and destroyed many German aircraft, and in the Mediterranean this

40-foot-span single-seater fighter has been in many combats with the Italian air force. How many of the enemy have been sent crashing out of the sky by Hurricanes of our many Home Defence squadrons only the Air Ministry knows.

The well-armed Messerschmitt 110 and the Heinkel 113 are no less swift than the Hurricanes, yet against this wonderful British aircraft, no longer new in design, these Nazi planes are constantly out-fought. Skilful pilotage and a great superiority in powers of manoeuvre are the reasons. For its type the Hurricane is astonishingly nimble, and in spite of its high speed and comparatively large dimensions it can be turned and twisted about as can no enemy fighter. From pilots who fly it by day and by night it receives unstinted praise.

FLEET AIR ARM

The fleet air arm, after months of fine but unadvertised work, won fame and glory at Taranto on November 11 and in the action off Sardinia on November 27, 1940. In those two actions the torpedoing was carried out chiefly by Fairey Swordfish aircraft, but lately a new and improved type of torpedo-carrying plane, the Fairey Albacore which has been put into service, adds considerably to the striking power of aircraft carriers. The torpedo strikes the water with the tremendous impetus, some 300 miles an hour, given it by the speed of the machine. The Fairey Albacore can be used also as a dive-bomber or for general reconnaisance. To carry the 500 lb. weight of an 18-in torpedo the plane is quite big—50 feet in length and sturdily built, being all metal except for the fabric covering of the wings. The Bristol-Taurus sleeve-valve engine gives 1,050 h.p. Its small size allows the pilot a clear view.

The planes are stored below decks with wings folded backwards. There the torpedoes are wheeled from the magazines on trolleys and jacked up to the fastening gear on the planes. The machine-guns are loaded and the planes raised to the flight deck in huge lifts. The crews climb aboard. On expeditions such as those of Taranto and the Sardinian Sea, there is usually only one observer, who navigates for all the rest of the planes, to save weight, carry only pilot and rear gunner (who releases the torpedo). When the planes are taking off the huge aircraft carrier forges ahead into the wind to give them some help. Once away from the ship the navigator must find his own way without using wireless, which would disclose the position of the ship. This needs high skill, for the flight may take four or five hours—he does it by dead reckoning.

The planes usually take evasive action to confuse the enemy gunners; sometimes smoke screens are laid first. To drop the torpedo the plane comes down to 150 feet or less, in order to prevent the mechanism which keeps the torpedo at a given distance beneath the surface being damaged as the torpedo strikes the water. As the plane swoops low over the water at about 1,000 yards from, and in line with, its target the rear gunner releases the torpedo, which speeds towards its mark, and the pilot must then extricate himself as best he can.

SOME AMERICAN TYPES

Mr. Grenville Manton writing to a British illustrated journal gives the following description of new American aircraft:

American aircraft are being shipped to England in ever-growing numbers. Piloted by British airmen, some have been flown across the Atlantic on non-stop delivery flights. In the coming months the flow will widen and expand, as President Roosevelt's fifty-fifty plan by which we are to receive half the output of American aircraft factories is geared up.

One American type with which people in England have been long familiar is the Lockheed Hudson. This fine reconnaisance-bomber machine has been used in large numbers by the Coastal Command, mainly on work over the North Sea, and it has been in many combats with the Luftwaffe. It is powered with two Wright Cyclone radial engines which give together a total of 1,700 horse-power at 6,000 feet. The Hudson was not designed in the first place as a military aircraft. It is a development of the Lockheed 14 "Super Electra" air liner, and the fact that it performs so well under the arduous conditions of air warfare shows how well its conversion from commercial to military requirements has been made. For more than a year this ex-transport plane has shown its mettle, flying in all weathers, bombing Nazi bases, spotting U-boats, and often fighting its way homewards against tremendous odds.

But soon the Hudson, after valiant service, is to be replaced by other American machines of higher speed and better all-round performance. One of these is the Douglas DB-7, known in the Royal Air Force as the Boston. This is a monoplane with a span of 61 feet and two Pratt and Whitney Twin Wasp engines which develop 1,200 h.p. each. An unusual feature of this aircraft, which is equipped for dive-bombing as well as precision bombing is the tricycle undercarriage. It has exceptionally clean lines and is capable of a maximum speed of 320 m.p.h. a cruising speed of 280 m.p.h. and a range of about 1,200 miles. Armament consists of four fixed machine-guns mounted in the nose of the fuselage, and there is another gun on a movable mounting in a position behind the wing.

The United States Army Air Corps has been equipped for some years with ultra-large bombers to meet the specific requirements of America, and this has resulted in various types of four-engined long range machines reaching a high state of development. The biggest of these is the Consolidated B-24. It has four 1,200 h.p. Pratt and Whitney Twin Wasp engines, and is credited with a top speed of well over 300 m.p.h. A hundred and twenty B-24s have been ordered by the British Government

for the Royal Air Force. The Boeing "Flying Fortress" is another four-engined bomber which will probably be in the service of the Royal Air Force in the near future.

There is another American bomber which must be mentioned: the Martin 167-A3. It was originally ordered by the French, and some of them saw service in France in the early days of the conflict. Powered with two Twin Wasp engines, it can carry 1,250 lb. of bombs, and has a maximum range of 2,470 miles. Its top speed is 316 m.p.h. and it cruises at 248 m.p.h. The Martin was not designed solely as a bomber, but is intended as a multi-seat fighter, as a reconnaissance machine, and also for low-flying attacks on ground forces. It is fairly well armed, and in spite of its size—its span is 61 feet—it has good powers of manœuvre. But its most suitable role is that of bomber.

Several months ago, much publicity was given to the fact that 90 dive-bombers in the service of the United States Navy were being transferred to Britain. These machines are Curtiss 77 SBC-4 Helldivers. They are powered with Wright Cyclone 1,200 h.p. engines and are single-bay wire-braced biplanes. They are regarded in America as obsolete, but they have no mean performance and will be useful in reinforcing still further the Royal Air Force.

In the fighter class great efforts are being made by United States manufacturers to evolve machines of the very highest performance. Hitherto they have favoured the comparatively small monoplane powered with a big air-cooled radial engine, and some very fine machines of this style have been produced. The Curtiss Hawk 75-A, which was supplied to l' Armee de l' Air and which has also been used in England to some extent, is a good example. It has a 900 h.p. Wasp engine, is very manœuvrable, and has a speed in the region of 320 m.p.h. Another radial-engined fighter which is being supplied to our air arm is the Brewster Buffalo (800 h.p. Wright Cyclone). In appearance the Buffalo is very unusual, with its heavily-cowled engine and tubby, round fuselage.

One other American fighter, which is being supplied to the Fleet Air Arm for service with aircraft carriers, is the Grumman G-36 four-gun machine. It has a 1,050 h.p. motor, which gives it a speed of 330 m.p.h.

Well in advance of these radial-engined fighters in all-round performance is the Curtiss P-40, a 37-foot-span low-wing monoplane which in general appearance closely resembles the redoubtable Hawker Hurricane. It is powered with an Allison 1,250 h.p. liquid-cooled engine, the only aero-motor of this type at present manufactured in the United States of America. Performance figures of this fine aeroplane, which is being turned out at the rate of three every day for the Royal Air Force cannot yet be divulged. But it can be taken for granted that in maximum speed and rate of climb it is as good as any fighter which has so far been on active service.

Two more types of fighters, which are produced by leading aircraft constructors in the United States of America will form the equipment of some of our squadrons before long. Each is of revolutionary design. One is the Bell Airacobra, an Allison-engined, 34-feet cantilever monoplane in which the outstanding feature is the location of the power unit in the fuselage behind the pilot. A shaft of special design drives the tractor airscrew. A tricycle under-carriage which is retractable is another unusual feature of this aircraft, for which a top speed of over 400 m.p.h. is claimed. Details as to its armament have not been released, but it is reputed to have four ·303 machine-guns and also a 37 mm. cannon. The other new fighter which will ultimately be delivered to England in large numbers is the Lockheed P-38. It has two Allison engines, a tricycle undercarriage, and is heavily armed. It can attain a speed of 404 m.p.h. and is one of the most advanced machines so far produced.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

The Two Dictators

Axis radio propaganda has been making great play—in the week ending March 2, 1941—with the recent speeches of the Fuehrer and the Duce, regardless of the fact that both harangues were defensive in tone and contained admissions of past defeats. Mussolini in particular seemed actually to revel in the magnitude of the disasters which had befallen him in Africa, boasting of having lost one complete army, with all its equipment, out of the two he had assembled there.

"These figures of our losses (in Africa)" declared the Duce, "shew how carefully our preparations were made". Marshal Graziani, it will be remembered, took a very different line in his famous "apology for defeat" (widely publicized at Christmas by the Italian press and radio), in which he complained to Mussolini that his preparations were seriously hampered by the non-arrival of mechanical transport and other much-needed equipment.

Hitler Explains

Meanwhile, Hitler—who last year boasted of a secret weapon that would end the war by Christmas, who was to be in Buckingham Palace by August, and whose radio has destroyed London on two distinct occasions and sunk more of Britain's cruisers than she ever possessed—now limits himself to threatening that he "will face Britain wherever she touches the Continent". His failure to invade Britain he explains by remarking naively that "the British have transferred their victories elsewhere, and we have had to run after them". But the four million Britons under arms who have not been "trans-

ferred ", as well as the home-based R.A.F. and the Royal Navy, doubtless explain why the Germans have preferred to " run after " possibly easier successes elsewhere.

Referring to Mussolini, Hitler says : " When I have chosen a man, I stick to him ". So he does, but not always to the benefit of the chosen one. Gregor Strasser, his chosen friend and co-founder of the Nazi Party, was assassinated as soon as he disagreed with Hitler on policy.

Roehm, his lieutenant chosen to organize intimidation by storm troopers, was purged in the blood-bath of 1934, along with many others of Hitler's old comrades. General Blomberg, Hitler's army friend and Commander-in-Chief, was disgraced as soon as the Fuehrer had obtained complete control of the army. Herr Thyssen, the man chosen to reorganize Germany's rearmament, was driven into exile the moment he protested against the invasion of Poland.

A Masterpiece of Under-Statement

Perhaps realizing that his usual airy dismissals of Royal Air Force raids on Germany are not having the success their simple artlessness deserves, Dr. Goebbels seems to have been telling his propagandists to add a little " corroborative detail " to their customary denials. Hence the following masterpiece of under-statement, broadcast from Berlin on Feb. 24, on the subject of the British attack on Wilhelmshaven the previous Friday night :—

" It must be pointed out that the British dropped most of their bombs on the mud-flats near Wilhelmshaven. Only one bomb actually fell within the precincts of the town, but it did practically no damage. The large fire reported by *Reuter*, into which the British airmen were said to have dropped their bombs again and again, was in a farm in a village on the distant outskirts of another town. The farm-house was burnt to the ground. . . more than 100 incendiaries were used by the British in this attack on helpless peasants."

Now, this particular raid on the Nazi naval base and shipbuilding yards at Wilhelmshaven was the 43rd which the Royal Air Force had carried out there since the war began. Does Goebbels seriously expect us to believe that the British airmen would (*a*) drop a lot of bombs in the mud, and (*b*) mistake a burning farm-house for a blazing factory, warehouses or slipway? Even if the " farm fire " were actually a decoy, lit by the Germans to lure the enemy away from their real objectives, the deception would soon have been discovered —and, in that case, what becomes of this British " attack on helpless peasants " ?

One feels that Admiral Raeder is a more reliable guide than Dr. Goebbels to what has been happening to Wilhelmshaven lately. On January 28 the Admiral told dockyard workers at that port that they had been suffering loss and damage in the past, and would have to suffer still more in the future.

The Fat Boy Again

After painting a lurid picture of what is in store for Britain—" the greatest land, sea and air offensive the world has ever witnessed ", with " simultaneous attacks on Britain, Iceland, Gibralter, Greece and British possessions in Africa ", carried out by " tens of thousands of German planes ", and an " onslaught by 300 to 400 German and Italian submarines on Britain's vital supply routes "—Berlin on February 28, quoted an American news agency as saying that every one in Britain was " completely at a loss to know how such a German offensive could be countered ".

Britain has withstood mass air attacks for six months. More than three thousand Nazi planes have been destroyed—an average of three for every Royal Air Force machine lost. This air offensive has not seriously impaired either in productive capacity or the morale of the nation. For eighteen months German U-boats have been attacking British merchant ships. Six out of every seven British vessels still remain intact, without allowing for replacements and acquisitions.

Nazi propaganda being what it is, there is no reason to suppose that any " American news agency " ever cast doubts on Britain's readiness to meet any new German onslaught; but this is what an American journalist and film commentator, Quentin Reynolds, told the *Brooklyn Eagle* on his return from London on January 16 : " Every Englishman is itching for Hitler to carry out his oft-repeated invasion threat. . . The sooner Germany tries to invade, the sooner England will win the war ".

The Truth at Last

Referring once again to the German attack on a British convoy off the Azores on February 13, the German radio says on March 2 that the British Government " have been hiding the unpleasant truth, which is that *eight* were sunk out of this convoy ". If only eight were sunk, as the Nazi radio now admits, then why have the Germans all along claimed to have sunk 13? The British Government has not published final figures for this incident, since a few ships, though still unaccounted for, are not yet overdue.

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Economic Conditions in Egypt

On February 24, the German broadcast in Hindustani invited the attention of its listeners to the comments of " a commercial paper in the Near East " which had, according to the Nazis, stated that economic conditions prevailing in Egypt were calamitous and that the British had been responsible for bringing these conditions about. The fact, however, is that the British Government have already bought over 4,665 thousand cantars of cotton, the total payments from September 1940 to January 1941 being 15,370,000 Egyptian pounds.

Furthermore, in spite of the alleged economic spoliation by the British, Anglo-Egyptian relations continue to be very friendly. In November 1940, Egypt's new Premier, Hussein Siry Pasha, told the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* : " Our co-operation is of the closest and most cordial. . . Britain's purchase of Egypt's cotton crop set the seal

on this co-operation. It was a good thing for us and not a bad thing for you either ". The latest evidence of Anglo-Egyptian friendship is to be found in a letter addressed this week-end by General Wavell to the Egyptian Premier, thanking him for the co-operation which the British forces had received from the Egyptian Government during the Army of the Nile's recent victorious offensive.

Hitler's " Mirrors of Truth "

Dr. Goebbel's broadcast proudly announced on February 23 that " unlike the British, Germany is not accustomed to lying ". Pursuing the well-known Nazi doctrine, propounded by the Fuehrer himself, that " a definite factor in getting a lie believed is the size of the lie ", the Nazis on February 14 excelled themselves by sinking again the 20,000-ton British ship " Orford ", which had actually been sunk in June last after being bombed near Marseilles!

Imaginary Riots in Calcutta

The enemy broadcast a senseless lie on February 27 purporting to come from a special correspondent in Calcutta. They said that Mr. Fazlul Huq, the Bengal Premier, and his Home Minister had given the order to open fire on unarmed civilians, causing countless casualties. There is, of course, no truth in this allegation. The Italian radio, however, went one better and actually announced that, as a result of the firing by the police, hundreds of people were killed and about one lakh were wounded. It might be recalled that on February 15 the Italian radio treated the Arab listeners to the most interesting news that Calcutta police fired on a Hindu procession which was being organized in connexion with the arrest of Subhas Chandra Bose who had been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment! Naturally this news item was not included in the Hindustani broadcast.

Germany over the Mediterranean

According to the Nazi broadcast of February 28, the Spanish paper *Ya* states that the German attacks in North Africa have upset British plans there. In the mopping-up operations still proceeding in Cyrenaica, some Nazi units have been encountered, but German suggestions about the presence of a large force there are baseless. The German dive-bombers' ability to interfere with the free use of the Sicilian Channel is discounted by the recent British naval operations, in which not only was a convoy conducted through the channel but a dive-bomber attack was beaten off with the loss of five enemy planes.

Increasing American Aid

Referring to the statement of the Assistant Secretary to the United States Arms Production Department to the effect that America could set up armament factories comparable with Germany's only by spending 100,000 million dollars, the German radio stated on February 25 that the United States of America's capacity to produce armaments being limited, American help could not save Britain.

Whatever the German interpretation, Mr. Knudsen, United States of America's Defence Commissioner, revealed on February 11 that the rate of manufacture of planes in America was well over 1,000 a month. " My aim ", said Mr. Knudsen, " is to make about 36,000 planes per year ". But even on the basis of present achievement, Britain would receive 500 planes a month. Good progress is also being made with the plans for building ships on a mass production basis. Britain has placed orders in the United States of America for £375 million worth of war materials. The new order to be made after the Lease and Lend Bill has been passed will more than double this figure.

Britain's Cause

The Nazis' Hindustani broadcast of February 25 puts into the mouth of an American Senator the statement that England is fighting to preserve her trade.

The Germans have a way of twisting statements to suit their own purpose, but no less a person than the British Premier himself has given the lie to this insinuation. Mr. Butler speaking in the Commons presented the fact in its true perspective when he said that the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs (who had offered to mediate not only in the Far East, but anywhere in the world) had been informed by Mr. Churchill that " in a cause for which we are fighting—a cause in no way concerned with territory, trade, or material gains, but affecting the whole future of humanity—there can be no question of compromise or parley ".

Economic " Victory " of Germany

The Nazi newspaper, *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, while commenting on the Italo-German economic talks, states, according to the German broadcast of February 27, that economic victory will be won by the Axis powers. There is no doubt that Italy will soon discover, as have Germany's other collaborators, that Germany's economic victories are always at the expense of the countries which co-operate with her. A year ago Rumania was one of the biggest exporters of meat and wheat, but she now suffers four meatless days per week, eats standard black bread and exports all her food to one customer, Germany. Denmark, after eight months of occupation, has a German debt of £20 millions. Theoretically Denmark is entitled to buy goods in Germany, but the latter cannot supply the goods required.

Greek Tribute to British Aid

The German broadcast of February 27, reported the London correspondent of the Associated Press as having written that Greece had intentionally refused offers of British help. Far from this being so, the Greek newspaper *Estia* goes out of its way to pay a tribute to the quality of British aid. It says: " The Italians well know the quality of British support to Greece. They see it every day, at Taranto, in Sicily, the Dodecanese and Albania ".

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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